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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1049

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ID, ICRC
SUBJECT: ICRC VISIT TO DETENTION CENTERS IN INDONESIA

REF: JAKARTA 1048

1. SUMMARY: ICRC REPRESENTATIVES FACE RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS FOR FIRST PHASE OF SURVEY OF DETENTION CENTERS IN INDONESIA SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 17 BUT HOPE THAT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LIFTED FOR SECOND PHASE IN POST-ELECTION PERIOD TO PERMIT ACCURATE OVERALL REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. ICRC REPRESENTATIVE ANDRE PASQUIER CALLED AT EMBASSY JANUARY 24 TO INFORM US OF PLANS WORKED OUT WITH INDONESIANS FOR SURVEY OF PKI DETENTION CENTERS. PASQUIER SAID SEVERAL WEEKS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDONESIANS HAD RESULTED IN RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS FOR JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 17 FIRST PHASE OF SURVEY BUT THAT ICRC HAD RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED GOI STIPULATIONS TO KEEP DIALOGUE OPEN AND IN HOPE THAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE LIFTED FOR SECOND PHASE IN POST-ELECTION PERIOD.

3. ICRC HAD INSISTED, PASQUIER EXPLAINED, THAT HIS FOUR-MAN TEAM BE PERMITTED THREE OR FOUR DAYS AT EACH LAGE DETENTION

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CENTER. INDONESIANS HAD AGREED BUT THEIR INSISTENCE THAT FIRST PHASE BE COMPLETED ON FEBRUARY 17 (ONE WEEK BEFORE ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS) EFFECTIVELY LIMITED CENTERS TO BE VISITED TO SIX ON JAVA AND TWO ON SUMATRA, ONLY ONE-THIRD OF DETENTION CENTERS ICRC BELIEVES EXIST ON THESE TWO ISLANDS. PASQUIER SAID GOI STIPULATED SITES TO BE VISITED, ACCEPTING ONLY ONE OF THOSE SUGGESTED BY ICRC. GOI ALSO LIMITED BURU VISIT TO FOUR

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DAYS WHICH TCRC REPS FOUND INADEQUATE. THEY CONSEQUENTLY CANCELLED PLANS TO VISIT BURU DURING FIRST STAGE.

4. PASQUIER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT UPCOMING ELECTIONS CREATED SENSITIVITIES WHICH HAMPERED FIRST PHASE OF SURVEY BUT THAT ICRC WOULD INSIST ON LESS RESTRICTIVE ACCESS DURING SECOND PHASE. ALTHOUGH TEAM WOULD NOT WISH TO VISIT ALL REMAINING FORTY-ODD DETENTION CENTERS WHICH ICRC BELIEVES EXIST, IT WOULD WANT TO CHOOSE THOSE TO BE VISITED AND TO SCHEDULE REVISITS IF NECESSARY. PASQUIER SAID DURING CURRENT STAY IN INDONESIA HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PIN DOWN EXACT DATES FOR SECOND PHASE, WHICH HE HOPED COULD BEGIN IN EARLY SUMMER.

5. PASQUIER SAID ICRC TEAM WOULD AS IN PAST CONCENTRATE ON CONDITIONS OF DETENTION. IF ADEQUATE SAMPLING OF DETENTION CENTERS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN SECOND PHASE, ICRC REPORT MIGHT ALSO COMMENT ON TOTAL NUMBER OF DETAINEES. ICRC TEAM WOULD QUERY GOI OFFICIALS ON SITUATION OF THOSE ALREADY RELEASED, PASQUIER SAID, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NOT REQUEST TO SEE EX-PRISONERS. PASQUIER PREDICTED THAT ICRC MIGHT HAVE SOME PROBLEM WITH RELEASING REPORT ON FIRST PHASE IF GOI SO REQUESTED BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED, ICRC WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RELEASE REPORT ON TOTAL SURVEY IF SECOND PHASE SATISFACTORY AND IF GOI AGREES TO PUBLISH FULL TEXT.

6. PASQUIER SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT EMBASSY AGAIN BEFORE TEAM DEPARTS INDONESIA.
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